Message Text

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EO 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN ID

SUBJ: US-INDONESIA DRAFT INCOME TAX CONVENTION

REF: STATE 203042

1. SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED: VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THOUGHTFUL SUGGESTIONS REFTEL. HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN AGREE TO SOME RECASTING WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL MAKE OUR POSITION EASIER TO DEFEND. END SUMMARY

2. REGARDING DEPARTMENT'S IMAGINITIVE PROPOSAL TO CIRCUM-NAVIGATE GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION IN ARTICLE 3 ALTOGETHER, WE ARE SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE THAT INDONESIANS' ATTENTION WILL BE DRAWN UNERRINGLY TO USE OF WORD "ACTIVITIES" IN NEW SUBPARAGRAPH 3(1)(C), AND THAT WE MAY BE UNABLE TO SELL THE IDEA THAT THE TERMS INDONESIA AND UNITED STATES "...INCLUDE OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES..." IN GROPING FOR AN ANSWER WE DEVELOPED FOLLOWING LANGUAGE WHICH, FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT'S EXAMPLE, AVOIDS GOEGRAPHICAL DEFINITION: "(C) THE USE OF THE TERMS REFERRED TO IN SUBPARAGRAPHS A AND B IN A GEOGRAPHICAL SENSE SHALL HAVE THE EFFECT OF EMBRACING IN THE INCOME TAX JURISDICTION OF THE RESPECTIVE CONTRACTING STATES THOSE ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE SSUBJECT TO SUCH JURISLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DICTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW."

ALTHOUGH PONDEROUS, WE THINK THE ABOVE MIGHT POSSIBLY AROUSE FEWER SUSPICIONS ON INDONESIANS' PART THAN LANGUAGE PARA 3 REFERENCE, WHILE PRESERVING ITS INTENT. REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONSIDER ITS ACCEPTABILITY TO USG AND ADVISE ASAP. KWOULD REFERENCE TO "CONTRACTING STATES" IN ABOVE REQUIRE THAT THIS SUBPARAGRAPH BE PLACED AFTER DEFINITION OF CONTRACTING STATE?)

- 3. WITH RESPECT DELETIONS FROM ARTICLE 3, WE NOTE THAT 3(1)(B) CONSISTS OF ONLY ONE SENTENCE. ASSUME WE MUST INSERT A PERIOD AFTER "MEANS THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA," AND DELETE ALL THAT FOLLOWS.
- 4. THIS LEAVES US WITH PROBLEM THAT DEFINITIONS OF US AND INDONESIA ARE NON-PARALLEL. COULD DEPARTMENT GO WITH DELETING ALL OF PARAGRAPH 3(1)(A) THAT FOLLOWS"... MEANS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.?"
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